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REPORT ON PROGRESS OF CONTADORA GROUP TALKS

PA122352 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2301 GMT 12 May 83

[By Demetrio Olaciregui]

[Text] The four foreign ministers of the Contadora Group are in the final phase of their consultations, and soon they will issue a communique on the meeting to the news media. Sources close to the Contadora Group said that President Ricardo de la Espriella has kept in touch all day with the progress of the consultations. The same sources added that President de la Espriella has expressed his wish to have the Contadora Group find mechanisms to solve the crisis affecting the region with a high social cost for the whole Central American area.

The Contadora Group will set forth in the final communique the position of this peace-seeking group regarding Costa Rica's request for a peace force to supervise its border with Nicaragua.

Diplomatic sources said yesterday that the Contadora Group could appoint a commission to confirm the alleged territorial aggressions or violations along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border and the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, if this was acceptable to the governments of Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This has not been confirmed so far.

In the meantime, sources close to the Contadora Group said that a Contadora Group delegation will go to New York to inform the UN Security Council of the results of the meeting in Panama.

In New York it has been reported that the UN Security Council has been called for a meeting tomorrow afternoon to receive a report from the Contadora Group. Jeane Kirkpatrick, UN Security Council president, said during the meeting held by the UN Security Council this morning behind closed doors that the United States will not accept the Nicaraguan draft proposal, but Nicaragua said it could modify its position. Nicaragua has asked the UN Security Council to give UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Contadora Group the power to mediate in the Central American crisis. At the same time, it has submitted a plan for negotiations at three levels: a bilateral dialogue between Honduras and Nicaragua; a limited regional dialogue among Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador; and a general dialogue including all five Central American countries.

We will shortly be reporting to our listeners on the results of the deliberations of the Contadora Group in Panama.

AIR FORCE TO BOYCOTT COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

PY121715 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 May (NAO -- Argentina will not participate in the upcoming conference of American air force commanders in chief because of "U.S. support for the British colonialist force" during the Malvinas war.

An Argentine Air Force source stated that Air Force Commander in Chief Jorge Hughes decided together with the commanding officers not to participate in the conference, which will soon be held in Miami.

The source stated that the decision not to participate in the conference "was prompted by U.S. support for the British colonialist force during the South Atlantic conflict."

CHILEAN AMBASSADOR DENIES RUMORS OF CONFLICT

PY121310 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2036 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (TELAM) -- Chilean Ambassador to Argentina Sergio Onofre Jarpa Reyes stated here today that there is no conflict between the two countries. He added that there exists a dispute which has been peacefully submitted to the mediation of the pope and we all hope that it will be solved soon.

In remarks made at Ezeiza International Airport, where he went to say farewell to a Chilean official, Jarpa Reyes also said that all rumors that have been circulating during the past few days have been perfectly explained by Chilean, Argentine, and church dignitaries.

MERCEDES BENZ THREATENS TO CLOSE PLANT, PULL OUT

PY111940 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 May 83 p 11

[Text] Mercedes Benz, it was rumored last night, could pull out of the Argentine market as a result of sanctions laid down against them by the Commerce Secretariat, which earlier yesterday sanctioned the company for not abiding by price control measures laid down by the government, reliable union sources said.

Mercedes Benz had apparently informed Commercial Under Secretary Jorge Agemor Quinteros of the possibility of the company leaving Argentina because of the price controls. The company, sources said, twice applied for permission to increase their prices, but on receiving no answers did so without the necessary authorization.

Mercedes Benz is said to have stated that it is not willing to lose another peso in Argentina, having lost 52 million dollars between 1981 and 1982.

The highest penalty laid down by the secretariat is a fine of 300 million pesos. The company is the first to receive government penalties since the price controls were introduced in February.

ARMY OFFICERS TURNED OVER TO MILITARY JUSTICE

PY112228 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1556 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (DYN) -- The Army headquarters reported today that Federal Judge Martin Anzoategui, who has been investigating the case of fuel adulteration, has been notified that the Army officers who are allegedly involved in the affair "are at the disposal of military judges" General Rafael Sotomayor, Colonel Oscar de la Vega and Colonel Dante Fernandez.

A communique released by the Army indicates that the information was supplied to Anzoategui "in reply to the request that the judge made in the above case."

Judge Anzoategui had asked Amry Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Cristino Nicolaides that the military personnel involved in the affair be arrested and transferred to the court's holding cells.

ECUADOREAN VICE PRESIDENT ON DEVELOPMENT

PY121440 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2056 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (NA) -- Ecuadorean Vice President Leon Roldos Aguilera expressed his opposition here today "to the formation of a debtors' union among Latin American nations." In a press conference granted at the Ecuadorean Embassy, Roldos Aguilera added "that if each country must tighten its belt to pay its debt, it will neither pay nor develop."

"We must and we have to pay our foreign debts -- Roldos Aguilera stated -- but it does not mean that we must accept the imposition of models, because our creditors will only worry about payments, and only development will provide us with the necessary resources."

Referring to the North-South dialogue, he said that "it has a defect: a lack of unity and understanding among the developing nations. Only when this understanding is achieved will we have the bargaining power to negotiate with the North."

Regarding his stay in Buenos Aires as an official guest, the Ecuadorean vice president stressed his meeting with President Bignone, after which he concluded that "Argentina will return to democracy."

Roldos Aguilera noted that he had agreed with the Argentine president on the Latin American solidarity "established during the terrible experience on the South Atlantic."

He added that he told President Bignone "that there are not set rules on trade which will facilitate greater integration in Latin America, for which we need the political action of a self-sufficient continent."

TEACHERS, OIL WORKERS BEGIN STRIKES 12 MAY

PY121430 La Paz Radio Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] The La Paz public school teachers are holding a 48-hour strike since 0000 Thursday to protest income tax measures on teachers' salaries. The strike only affects public schools since private schools will carry out their normal activities.

Teachers have expressed their repudiation of income tax measures, noting that government officials have overlooked the teachers' low income, which is diminished even more by discounts that are not in keeping with the present national situation.

Moreover, all oil workers throughout the nation are holding a 24-hour strike since 0000 Thursday. Oil workers are protesting a draft bill creating the national gas commission submitted by the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left].

Oil workers believe that the creation of a parallel organization to YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] undermines the existence of YPFB.

This is a national strike, consequently it is affecting all other national sectors, particularly in La Paz, which is already feeling the impact of the oil workers strike.

CONGRESS APPROVES UNIONS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS

PY121615 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0033 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] La Paz, 11 May (EFE) -- Today the Bolivian Congress authorized public servants to organize unions, thus abrogating a law by which union activity was forbidden to them.

This decision was approved by the Chamber of Deputies, which also entrusted a congressional committee with drawing up a law to provide the mechanism for organizing unions in state-owned enterprises.

In recent years, Bolivian public servants, of whom there are approximately 70,000 have been negotiating with the various and successive administrations to obtain authorization to organize unions.

Last week they blocked the main streets and avenues of La Paz protesting the Congress' lack of action regarding their request.

URUGUAYAN BLANCO PARTY LEADER VISITS COUNTRY

PY130215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 10 May 83

[By Emilio Crespo]

[Text] La Paz, 9 May (EFE) -- Uruguayan opposition leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate today said that he is hopeful and optimistic about his country's democratization and about the discussions the military will hold with some political parties.

The senator [as received] of the Blanco Party, exiled in London, granted EFE an exclusive interview in La Paz, in the course of which he stated that the Uruguayan military regime "is finished, its situation is untenable."

On Sunday, Ferreira Aldunate arrived in Bolivia on the first leg of a tour that will also include Panama, Colombia and Ecuador in search for solidarity with his country's democratic cause. Ferreira Aldunate stated that his party will attend the discussions announced by the military, even though not all the parties had been invited and full freedom had not been restored. Opposition forces seek to confirm the military promises about democratization which, if confirmed, will necessarily lead to proscriptions being called off, he added. We shall not discuss a constitutional draft law, as the military wants, but the country's overall democratization, because popular pressure for the cause of freedom is being felt stronger than ever, Ferreira Aldunate said.

The 64-year-old politician, who has been in exile since the 1973 military coup, had some harsh comments for the Uruguayan regime which, he said, although it has not killed as many people as other dictatorships, has enforced the worst repressive system. The Uruguyan Armed Forces have failed in leading the country's political, economic and social administration, he said, and they cannot cope with the burden of economic crisis and popular opposition. These factors, he said, are forcing the regime to negotiate with the political parties, albeit maintaining repression and abuse and some 400,000 Uruguayans in exile.

During the talks with the military, which are expected to begin soon, we will ask that freedom be restored, Ferreira said. He emphasized that just as his party will not set forth conditions, it will not accept any from the military. Ferreira Aldunate, who was presidential candidate for the Blanco Party in the latest elections, said he could not ascertain with whom actual power rests and affirmed that such power does not rest with President Gregorio Alvarez. "The regime's tenure is held by 3, 4, or perhaps 10 generals. We do not know this for sure, and I do not even believe the military itself knows who runs the country," Ferreira Aldunate stated when he was asked about who would be the key figures in the talks to be held with the military. Ferreira Aldunate declined to anticipate what the Uruguayan opposition forces' attitude would be in case the talks with the military fail or their opening goals are not achieved. "That comes later," he said. He was hopeful, however, that the military would be "intelligent" and realize that their fall is inevitable.

Concerning a subsequent military intervention that could disrupt Uruguay's democratization, he said that the generals must have learned a lesson from the present government's failure. Dictatorships usually rise to power allegedly to promote efficiency, to solve problems, but once they fail there is no reason for their existence, he said. In the Southern Cone, Ferreira went on, military dictatorships have also supplied the excuse of "national security" to control their countries but, as happened in the Malvinas war, they even failed in doing that. "They are no good, not even for waging a war."

Ferreira Aldunate said that Bolivia's democratization and that of other countries in the area, if it comes true, will have a favorable impact on all Latin American authoritarian governments. Latin America is a region where democracies will not be safe as long as political and economic dependence persists. Ferreira Aldunate, who will stay in La Paz until 15 May, will be received by Bolivia's highest authorities.

MILITARY HOUSEHOLD CHIEF ON RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

PY130020 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Porto Alegre -- Libya and Brazil are two friendly countries and they will find a solution to the case of the four planes that are being retained in Recife and Manaus.

This has been guaranteed by the chief of the Military Household, but this does not mean to say that Brazil is going to back down regarding the authorization for new overflight plans. For Gen Rubem Ludwig, he who backs down closes the negotiations.

GOVERNMENT-IMF IMPASSE OVER PUBLIC DEFICIT

PY120209 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Apr 83

[Text] After a 90-minute meeting with Chilean Economist Ana Maria Jul, an IMF official, Central Bank President Carlos Geraldo Langoni admitted that the guidelines for measuring the public deficit, due to the upheaval that was caused by the 18 February maxidevaluation.

Ana Maria Jul and four other IMF experts that made up the Fund's delegation met several times with Langoni and the finance and planning ministers 4 months ago to work out the conditions for a $4.8 billion loan. The reduction of the public deficit was one of the most important conditions, and from the start the government and the IMF were at loggerheads regarding the manner in which it was to be measured. The government emphasized that the public debt amounted to 5.8 percent of the GDP in 1982 and wanted to reduce it to 3.5 percent in 1983, while the IMF estimated the deficit at 13.8 percent of the GDP in 1982 and requested that it be reduced to 7.9 percent in 1983.

Ana Maria Jul arrived at the Central Bank, which is located on the Pio X Plaza, at 0900 and had to wait for 50 minutes until the president of the Central Bank arrived. On leaving at 1120, carrying a large briefcase with documents and dressed in a plain print dress, she asked the reporters in fluent Portuguese not to pester her any more.

"Please, you must understand that I am in Brazil to collect data. Anything else is speculation and has absolutely no basis."

"How did your talk go with the president of the Central Bank?"

"Nothing spectacular. But, I cannot say anything. Please, don't ask any more questions."

The economist, who returns to Brasilia on Monday where she will stay for 2 days, stated that it is still too early to evaluate the development of the Brazilian economy during the first 3 months [of 1983] and she did not answer the question about a possible delay in the disbursement of the next quota of funds by the IMF due to the fact that an agreement cannot be reached regarding the goals for reducing the public deficit.

The IMF mission that will arrive in Brazil in June, again headed by Horst Struckmeyer -- chief of the Atlantic Division -- will makea detailed evaluation of the Brazilian economy based on the data collected by Ana Maria Jul and on the data that the IMF regularly receives from Brazil.

The Brazilian Government and the IMF will have until that time to find a solution to the current impasse regarding the guidelines for measuring the public deficit. From the start of the Brazilian-IMF negotiations there has been a question of how to define the public deficit: The Brazilian Government does not include interest rates, monetary correction of the internal public debt and the expenditure of state and municipal governments in its statistics, but, in compensation, it does include the subsidies that are connected with the loans, something the IMF does not do. Therefore, the government and the IMF come up with different figures.

Finally, the guideline that was agreed upon by the two parties states that the public deficit can in no way surpass 2.8 trillion cruzeiros during the first 3 months of 1983. As the final date regarding the development of the public sector is not ready yet, as Langoni said yesterday, it is already being admitted within the government that the maxidevaluation has caused an upheaval in all the goals which had been set on the basis of a projected inflation rate (70 percent for 1983) meaning a 3-monthly average of 15 percent), which does not correspond to current averages (27.9 percent).

In addition to the data on the internal economy, the IMF is also interested in knowing the state of Brazil's external accounts. Ana Maria Jul also visited the Foreign Trade Study Center Foundation yesterday, where, according to Superintendent Roberto Fendt, she had only informal conversations; something that has happened during all her trips to Brazil (this is the seventh) during the past 4 years. The economist also collected data on the GDP estimates.

As of Wednesday, the economists, the mother of two, will rest for a few days in Brazil and relax from the pestering of the journalists. She will return in June as a member of the IMF mission that will decide whether Brazil is complying with the conditions set down by the IMF.

NUCLEAR WORK GROUP ENDS 2-DAY TALKS WITH U.S.

PY130208 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 May 83 p 22

[Text] Brasilia -- This time there was neither pressure nor bargaining; it was possible to find formulas for cooperation without affecting each country's policy, a Brazilian diplomatic source said yesterday describing the result of the first 2-day meeting held in Brasilia by a work group of Brazilian and U.S. nuclear specialists.

Another meeting will be held in July in Washington at which the first proposals will be presented for U.S. cooperation with the Brazilian Government concerning research and safety of nuclear plants.

Richard Kennedy, head of the U.S. mission, stated that the U.S. main objective at the meeting was "to remove the causes of friction between the two governments." He said the U.S. delegation did not press Brazil into signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty because this is not essential for a mutual cooperation program.

Proenca Rosa, head of the Brazilian delegation, said that although Brazil is against the proliferation of nuclear arms, it believes that each country is entitled to having access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

NO DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS UNTIL 1992

PY061745 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] In Uberaga, Joao Leitao de Abreu, chief of the military household of the Presidency -- who is accompanying the president -- stated that the 1985 elections for president of the republic will be indirect and that (?it has been established) that direct elections will only be held in 1992. At this point, it will have been 28 years since the people participated in presidential elections.

MARIO COVAS SWORN IN AS NEW SAO PAULO MAYOR

PY120243 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 11 May 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo (DAILY POST) -- Ex-congressman and secretary of transportation Mario Covas was sworn in as mayor of Sao Paulo in a short ceremony Tuesday at the governor's mansion. Covas was nominated by Governor Franco Montoro of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] two weeks ago and approved by the city council last week in a close vote. Covas is the last of the capital city mayors to be sworn in, as Montoro waited as long as he could to make his nomination, hoping that the bill before congress to allow direct elections of state capital mayors would be approved. As the voting on that bill has been postponed until the end of June at the earliest, Montoro succumbed to pressure and nominated his recently-chosen secretary of transportation.

In his inaugural speech, Covas defended the idea of direct elections of capital city mayors and said that his administration will be characterized by "the purging of two deforming vices -- authoritarianism and paternalism."

The new mayor also said that he will do his best to "improve the quality of life in the city that I begin to govern today (Tuesday)" .

PAPER QUESTIONS POLICY ON HEMISPHERE, SURINAME

PY111420 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Apr 83 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Brazil and the Hemisphere"]

[Text] President Joao Baptista de Oliveira's remarks in Cancun cannot be overlooked without any comment. He said that Brazil does not accept Soviet interference in Suriname In his remarks Figueiredo admits the danger hovering on the northern border, about which Itamaraty is keeping quiet in an attempt to adopt a Third World political line. It was already said here but it is worth repeating that the initiative to send General Danilo Venturini, secretary of the National Security Council, to Paramaribo, to carry out negotiations aimed at developing bilateral relations between Brazil and Suriname, was an intelligent move. It is worth the effort to turn that country into an ally, to prevent it from becoming an instrument of Cuba and of the Soviet Union, in their campaign against the United States.

It is appropriate to remember, however, that Brazil's position in this episode is still weak; and it will continue being weak until Brasilia admits the fact that problems such as the one we are trying to solve on the northern border are not generated there but have their vortex in Central America and the Antilles.

The attack on democracy is nowadays a premonition of problems in the hemisphere. And Brazil is a member of this hemisphere. If the enemies of the democratic regime do not succeed in establishing a bridgehead in the continent, especially in Paramaribo, it does not mean that the risks that Brazil is running because of the importance of its geopolitical position can be underestimated.

Is it too difficult to realize that the attack on the Western world is growing increasingly, with great advantage to the aggressor, the Soviet Union? This aggressor is constantly claiming that it is defending itself from the attacks of the "imperialist capitalism;" claims itself a supporter and lover of peace; but never stops attacking. The conflict is spreading throughout the world, with episodes which are limited in space and interwoven in time, but which always end up signaling the progress of the enemies of freedom. Southeastern Asia collapsed after the progress achieved with the extension of the Iron Curtain in Europe. In Africa, Angola and Mozambique are the two hands of the tongs which in due time will close on the southern continent to subjugate South Africa, coveted for its natural riches. Now the pivot of the totalitarian lever has moved to Central America. Nicaragua has fallen, and subversion is growing in El Salvador. Brazil refuses to see all this, because if it does, it would take into account facts which the Foreign Ministry wants to ignore, and would have to prepare its defense. By an error of analysis, a defense would be prepared only if the bordering neighbor were threatened. This is what happened in the case of Suriname. At the sign of danger, Gen Venturini was immediately sent there. It would be good not to nurture ambitious illusions regarding the success of that mission. The regime instituted by the two coups d'etat carried out recently in Paramaribo, and which helped Ramad Mister to assume the executive branch with absolute powers, does not conceal his satisfaction over the changes that are taking place in Central America; and although he does not declare himself a communist (it would not even be necessary; didn't Fidel Castro hold until recently the presidency of a peculiar association of nonaligned countries?) he can in fact be turned into a satellite and begin to function under the sway of the Kremlin, awaiting only that the domino theory will become a reality, in the north.

In this regard, it is good to keep in mind the concern expressed by the Netherlands regarding the development of events in Suriname. The aid from The Hague has been cut, and the head of the Netherlands Government has made a point to explain clearly that the regime instituted by Ramad Mister "has lost all credit from the Surinamese people as well." The Brazilian position will have to be explained in May when the Netherlands foreign minister visits Brasilia. Whatever the future of this neighbor country may be (and of the foreign policy implemented to tighten relations between Suriname and Brazil), it will depend on the intelligence and clever position adopted here. There is only one alternative here; either the Paramaribo regime will free itself from the yoke of communism, or Suriname will become another Cuba, without the need of experiencing the effects of guerrilla warfare.

PAPER CITES 'MEXICANIZATION' OF FOREIGN POLICY

PY062339 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Apr 83 p 10

[Editorial: "Political Anguish"]

[Text] Who could anticipate -- until President Figueiredo and his entourage left for Mexico -- that the important understandings arrived at by Mexico and Brazil to alleviate their respective economic-financial problems would bring about a sudden Mexicanization of Brazilian foreign policy? In the meantime, judging from the results of this presidential visit, this hypothesis is alarmingly becoming almost true. And the discouraging feeling it gives is that Brazil is allowing its own diplomacy to become accommodated to a "group spirit" which is not in keeping with the needs of a country like ours, nor with the acute problems which our foreign policy has to tackle.

Before anything else, it should be pointed out that it is very important that countries with difficulties make an effort to help each other. But why should this mutual support be mistaken for a common grave in which Brazil loses its own identity and has nothing to gain -- in fact, quite the reverse?

In the political field, the Central American problem was the main issue of the talks which Brazil and Mexico were to hold during the recent presidential visit. As we are all aware, this is a very serious matter. However, judging from what was heard from the Brazilian delegation -- headed by the president of the republic himself -- the problem was only dealt with in general terms, or was allowed to slide into a state of indecision, something which is intolerable given the seriousness of the problem.

President Figueiredo referred to a "possible Cuban intervention" in the "serious socioeconomic problems" of the Central American countries. He asserted that Brazil "respects the peoples' right to self-determination" and stated that "although Nicaragua is a country with a Marxist leaning," we do not approve foreign intervention -- making specific reference to a possible U.S. intervention. He ended a brief chat with journalists by promising that Brazil will continue to maintain a policy "resembling that of the Third World."

These statements -- at a time when everyone is expecting Brazil to establish its position -- do not define its foreign policy but rather contribute toward confusing matters regarding an issue which, in itself, is tricky.

The Central American socioeconomic problems undoubtedly are propitious for penetration by Cuba -- as the representative of a much broader political scheme. But it would be a mistake to believe that that intervention would be aimed only and mainly at solving the socioeconomic problems. The socialist bloc never makes a disinterested move and always seeks to take political advantage of socioeconomic problems. As a consequence, Cuba is paying the Soviet Union the high price of its autonomy and right to "self-determination."

The United States, in confronting the Central American crisis, has made successive assessment mistakes -- as well as practical mistakes, of immediate consequence, such as the almost direct participation through "secret means" of secret agents in the regional struggles. By doing so, the United States is harming its own cause because it stirred up the anti-U.S. feeling which was latent in the region.

However, it must not be forgotten that democracy is fully exercised in the United States. President Ronald Reagan's policy is discussed every day by the U.S. Congress, which not only controls U.S. aid to Central America, but is also drawing up a special law to prevent the CIA's "underground operations" in this region.

By contrast, in other parts of the world no political control exists or is information made available. Only by chance did Brazil learn about a specific shipment of arms to Central America when a group of Libyan planes landed on Brazilian territory.

In Mexico, Brazil rightfully urged that all efforts be made to seek a political solution to the Central American crisis. Will Colonel al-Qadhdhafi -- who answered so badly Brazil's attempt to regard him as a civilized leader -- see the need for this effort?

Some thousands of Cuban, German, oriental, Soviet, Libyan, PLO, etc., advisors are witnessing the Central American crisis from their base in Managua. Is this type of intervention less serious that the CIA's underground action? Would these advisers be willing to cooperate in the "frank, loyal and rational analysis of how to overcome this crisis" which President Figueiredo proposed in Mexico?

In his approach to the Central American crisis, Reagan continues to resort to a sometimes exaggerated and sometimes naive rhetoric which reveals an ancient problem of U.S. policy, that is, to adjust to the current realities. It is not an easy thing for a democracy to implement its foreign policy without making any concessions. President Reagan sometimes tries to break the opposition of the people and Congress to expenditures which do not always seem justified by exaggerating a bit. On other occasions, he will listen to adivsers whose way of thinking is devoid of subtleness -- the way of thinking the U.S. Government has the habit of applying to problems within its area of influence. And because of this inadequate attitude, Washington is now playing a very high price, not only in Central America but on the entire continent.

This does not stop the United States from continuing to be an important interlocutor for Brazil -- as has been demonstrated in the recent economic and financial maneuvers. It is also an important interlocutor because it is a modern, politically open, and culturally developed country. Nobody would have imagined that Brazil's current economic problems would compel the country to make an inadmissible alignment with U.S. foreign policy (even more so when that policy, as we have already seen, is full of faults). However, it would be perfectly natural to imagine that Brazil -- an "average country," as many term it, which already occupies 10th place in the world economy -- would make use of its weight as a strong moderating element in the regional tensions (something similar to what happened during the war over the Falklands).

Mexico and Central America have atavistic reasons to lodge misguided complaints against the United States. Not so Brazil -- although there are also signs of a xenophobic anti-Americanism here. Brazil is sufficiently removed from the Central American crisis to be able to assist in the problem free of resentments, but not sufficiently distant for President Figueiredo to state that the situation in Nicaragua is "the United States' problem."

For all these reasons it is difficult to understand what the president meant by saying that Brazil would continue to maintain a policy "resembling that of the Third World." In view of the magnitude of the crisis in Central America, one can no longer implement a generalized policy: It is necessary to implement a specific policy for very specific case -- especially because we are talking of Brazil.

At present we maintain important understandings with the United States regarding very serious economic and financial issues; therefore, why would the discussion regarding international policy -- which currently concerns the U.S. Government excessively -- be less important? Are we going to say that politics and economy operate separately, thus going against all logic? Will we allow, through neglect alone, the dialogue between the United States and its neighboring countries to drown under mutual resentment? This would be the fatal result of implementing a policy of blocs on our continent -- forming a bloc which would exclude the United States. In order to avoid this suicidal schizophrenia, Brazil must have its own diplomacy as soon as possible.

AGENCY SIGNS $100 MILLION CONTRACT WITH ANGOLA

PY130158 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 May 83 p 20

[Excerpt] Petrobras International Trade, Inc. has signed a $35 million contract to supply soybeans to Mexico. Angola will purchase $100 million worth of food, steel products and agricultural implements [from Brazil] for which it will pay in petroleum at prices which are lower than those of OPEC. These agreements plus $500 million surplus in the April trade balance left Cace [Foreign Trade Department] officials optimistic yesterday about meeting the $6 billion surplus goal this year.

2 KILLED, 200 ARRESTED IN 11 MAY RIOTS

PY121355 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Two people died and more than 200 others were arrested during violent incidents which occurred in Santiago last night. The victims were identified as Victor Rene Rodriguez (Feli), 15, and Andres Fuentes Sepulveda, 22.

Victor Rene Rodriguez, who lived in Santa Julia neighborhood of Nunoa district, was shot from a yellow (Chevrolet Lugus) truck. Police are searching for the truck.

Victor Rodriguez's parents reported that the boy, who got involved in the incidents provoked by the demonstrators while he was going shopping, was seriously injured and died at the hospital.

Andres Sepulveda was shot in his right temple while he was participating in a riot in the interesection of Lo Valledor and Valparaiso streets in the La Victoria neighborhood of San Miguel District.

During the night incidents occurred in various parts of the city, mainly in Nunoa and San Miguel Districts. Groups of vandals blockaded streets with trees and tires and later set fire to them. They also assaulted police cars and groups of Carabineros that were attempting to restore order.

Witnesses reported that people in cars that belonged neither to the demonstrators nor to the police, were seen firing at the demonstrators to provoke them.

Policemen Discharged, Under Investigation

PY121930 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] The Investigative Police of Chile have released an official communique referring to the death of a minor last night. The communique states that:

1) When a truck of the Eighth Police Precinct of Nunoa was returning from a judicial mission, it ran into a group of people who prevented the truck from advancing. The demonstrators tried to assault the truck after they identified its occupants as civilian policemen. The truck was intercepted at the traffic circle located in the intersection of Rodrigo de Anaya Street and Los Presidentes Avenue. The incident occurred on 11 May at approximately 2030.

2) Two occupants of the mentioned truck, who fired several bullets only for the purpose of scaring the demonstrators, mortally wounded the minor Victor Rene Rodriguez (Feli).

3) The policemen who participated in this unfortunate incident have been discharged from the institution and put at the disposal of the corresponding criminal court.

4) Regardless of the above, the head of the department has ordered an in-depth investigation to determine any other responsible persons.

The official communique released by the Investigative Police of Chile is signed by (Luis Jose Arias Iturralde), chief of the Public Relations Department.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS PROBE OF ILLEGAL ARMS DEAL

PY130320 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 May 83 p 5

[Excerpts] Yesterday the Foreign Ministry ordered the Chilean Embassy in Washington to thoroughly investigate a public charge that the firm United Aviation Industries of Bethesda, Maryland, has been illegally selling arms to Chile. [passage omitted]

AP yesterday reported that United Aviation President Robert P. Poisson and Vice President Anthony J. Villa were indicted on charges of selling sonar equipment, cannons, torpedoes and other weapons to the Chilean Navy.

SCHWEITZER, NEGOTIATORS VISIT BEAGLE CHANNEL

PY100154 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 May 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 9 May (EFE) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Miguel Alex Schweitzer began a tour today of the Beagle Channel and the Navarino Island.

Schweitzer will also visit Picton, Lennox and Nueva Islands on board a Navy ship. He will be accompanied by Colonel Ernesto Videla, head of the Chilean delegation to the papal mediation, and by Patricio Prieto, a jurist and adviser of the Chilean delegation at the Rome talks with Argentina.

The official delegation will spend 3 days in that area and will talk to the local people and will get familiarized with the region in keeping with Schweitzer's desire to learn a little more than what he can find on maps and in documents.

Deployment, Reinforcement Denied

PY121545 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 May 83

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer returned to Santiago after making a tour of the southern part of the country. He termed his visit highly positive, adding that other authorities should also visit the area.

During his stay in the southern part of Chile, Foreign Minister Schweitzer met with regional authorities and military officers stationed there. Foreign Minister Schweitzer made his comments at the airport.

Asked whether there is in fact a reinforcement of troops near the Argentine border, he stated that there is neither a deployment nor a reinforcement of troops on the Chilean side. Schweitzer made the point that his visit was aimed exclusively at becoming acquainted with the area and getting in touch with local inhabitants.

Schweitzer said that several fact-finding meetings were held, adding that the papal mediation and the border dispute with Argentina were mainly discussed.

Asked whether he believed that the Chilean-Argentine Sea of Peace proposed by the pope might be implemented, Schweitzer said that Chile is always respectful of the agreements, adding that the pope has requested that the contents of his proposal be maintained in secret.

Additionally, Foreign Minister Schweitzer remarked that the most important thing is to maintain peace, adding that this is precisely what his holiness is trying to do.

ARMY LAUNCHES ANTIGUERRILLA OFFENSIVE IN CAQUETA

PA121407 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Florencia -- Army regular troops have launched a new frontal offensive by land and air against guerrilla columns that resumed their activities in southern Caqueta this week.

A large region between Florencia, El Paujil and (Doncello) has been militarized today, after the first night under the state of siege declared by El Paujil authorities. The state of siege was declared because of the clashes between Army units and members of the 19 April Movement southern command.

So far, official reports on the number of dead and wounded are contradictory, but according to military sources, between Monday and Wednesday, 10 soldiers and 15 guerrillas were killed in strong clashes at El Paujil and La Dorada.

Antiguerrilla operations in the jungles of Caqueta have sometimes been hampered by bad weather, but several detachments of the Juanambu and Colombia Battalions, supported by 10th Brigade regiments airlifted in, are constantly pursuing the guerrillas. New clashes are expected to occur at any moment.

Army Commander General Bernardo Lema Henao and General (Manuel Burillo Gonzalez), commander of the 9th Brigade are directing the antiguerrilla operation and have been in the combat zone since yesterday.

Meanwhile, the dry law continues in effect at El Paujil. The state of siege implemented by Mayor (Luis Humberto Martinez) will again take effect at 2000 tonight in order to facilitate the activities of the regular troops.

Army Commander on Operations

PA130419 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1840 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Bogota, 12 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- General Manuel Murillo today said that the Army has surrounded a leftist guerrilla group that has clashed with soldiers in southeast Colombia several times resulting in approximately 30 men killed.

The officer, who heads antisubversive operations in the Caqueta jungle region, approximately 600 km south of Bogota, told a radio network that some 100 guerrillas of the 19 April Movement (M-19) are trying to break the increasingly smaller military encirclement. However, the operation has met with certain difficulties because of the rugged jungle terrain in the region, he added.

The fighting began on Monday when a guerrilla group attacked Paujil, killed a policeman, and looted banks and businesses. According to Caqueta Governor Miller Ortega, the attack resulted in subsequent clashes between the Army and the guerrillas, with a toll of one soldier and nine rebels dead.

Gen Murillo said that 15 guerrillas and 5 soldiers had been killed in new fighting. Army Commander General Bernardo Lema made a surprise visit to the region and gave instructions on how to conduct the operations.

Helicopters from a nearby military base flew to the fighting area to support the Army encirclement that is trying to keep the guerrillas from fleeing. The guerrilla group is led by Jamie Capera Diaz, considered to be the commander of the so-called M-19 southern front.

Civilian authorities decided to implement a curfew and a dry law in Paujil yesterday from 2000 local time to 0600 the next day in order to prevent any support for the guerrillas.

Havana Reports Clashes

PA121936 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Reports from Bogota, the Colombian capital, indicate that the intense clashes between guerrillas of the 19 April Movement and the Army continue in Paujil, in Caqueta intendancy. Official reports indicate that in Tuesday's fighting, 14 guerrillas and 5 soldiers were killed and an officer was wounded. This brings to nine the number of army casualties in these clashes.

M-19 GROUP ATTACKS TOWN IN HUILA DEPARTMENT

PA130300 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2022 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Neiva (COLOMBIA) 12 May (DPA) -- It was confirmed today that 70 men of the 19 April Movement (M-19) attacked Oporapa, 197 km south of Huila Department, and in heavy fighting wounded 4 policemen.

The guerrillas fled to a jungle region in the eastern Andean mountain range after the attack on the town.

During the 45 minutes that they remained in town, the guerrillas harangued the people and seized the Agrarian Credit Institute offices but did not take the money deposited there.

Colonel Miguel Carrillo Garcia, the Huila police commander, said that he did not know if there had been any casualties among the guerrillas.

DAILY REPORTS POLICE OPERATIONS, ARRESTS

PY121745 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 May 83 p 10

[Excerpts] Yesterday the police arrested Ruben Lisboa, a leader of a bank employee union. The police also raided the building of the Paraguayan Data Bank (BPD) in Villa Morra neighborhood and arrested some of the persons present at the time of the raid. The house of journalist Gustavo Codas' mother was visited and then put under surveillance by the police, who did not release any official information concerning these operations.

The reasons for these operations could not be officially confirmed but unofficial information indicated that the operations are related to articles published by the government mouthpiece PATRIA where various student and labor leaders were mentioned as involved in alleged subversive plans.

The police yesterday raided the building of the Paraguayan Data Bank (BPD) at 250 Macarthur Street (Villa Morra neighborhood). Several plainclothsmen took over the place and apparently arrested both persons who were working there and occasional visitors.

There is no information on the number of persons involved because the police did not release any details or the names of the persons arrested. However, relatives have indicated that among those arrested are: Margarita Elias, Benjamin Livieres, Roberto Villalba and Enrique Gossen, but this could not be confirmed.

Several plainclothesmen of the investigative police yesterday visited and then placed under surveillance the residence of Mrs Friedmann Codas at Espana and Boqueron Streets. She is the mother of journalist Gustavo Codas. Last night two plainclothesmen were seen stationed at the door while there were others inside the house.

"I am not aware of these operations. I have no information in this regard," Public Relations Director of the Metropolitan Police Osvaldo Palacios, said last night, upon being questioned by this daily.

POLICE STOP NEWSPAPER TRUCKS, CONFISCATE ISSUES

PY111720 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 May 83 p 1

[Special front page report labeled "Last Minute: They Impede Our Circulation"]

[Text] We regret to inform the public that since early this morning, several policemen wearing civilian clothes and uniforms, who were stationed on the corners near where the ABC COLOR Building is located, proceeded to stop the ABC COLOR delivery trucks.

The ABC COLOR delivery truck in charge of distributing this newspaper along highway no 1 left at 0150. It was detained at the intersections of Fulgecio R. Moreno and Independencia Nacional streets and taken to the Third Police Station where it was ordered to go into the patio through the entrance on Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion Street.

Both the driver and his passenger had to give their full names and ages and other personal facts such as their monthly pay, the number of years they have been working at the newspaper, the department in which they were working, etc; then the policemen proceeded to start a police file with pictures, signatures, and fingerprints. The police took note of the distribution sheet and detained the newspaper employees for 3 hours. The workers were released at 0500.

When the officer in charge of the operation was asked whether they were being detained or placed under arrest, he said that they would have to ask the police public relations department and that the procedure was in keeping with "superior orders."

The truck resumed its route at 0500. Moreover, during pre-dawn hours, the police proceeded to detain all vehicles that left our building and that circulated through the aforementioned streets. They checked identification cards and the car interior and car trunks. Police also confiscated some ABC COLOR issues from early risers who bought ABC COLOR issues at our building, but later allowed the buyers to go.

The objective of these unpunised violations of constitutional rights is to restrict the information of national events and also to influence the independent editorial line that is followed by this newspaper.

Since the delivery trucks continue to be detained, we do not know when our readers will be able to read today's ABC COLOR issue.

IAPA Cables Stroessner on Harassment

PY121150 Paris AFP in Spanish 1934 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Miami, 11 May (AFP) -- The Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] sent a telegram today to Paraguayan President General Alfredo Stroessner expressing its concern over what it described as reports which indicate a harassment campaign against the independent press in that country.

The telegram, signed by IAPA President Andres Garcia Lavin, states that the Paraguayan Government, through some of its branches, is causing delays in the distribution of newspapers in the interior of the country, particularly of the newspaper ABC COLOR.

These events can mark the beginning of a campaign against that newspaper, and a restriction against freedom of the press, the telegram states.

The cable adds: In view of these reports, we want to inform you that we will call this to the attention of the press in the United States, the hemisphere and the world, and we hope that your good offices will assure us that this situation will not prevail.

Archbishopric on Press Freedom

PY121535 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 May 83 p 11

[Excerpt] Through its press office, the Archbishopric of Asuncion yesterday released a document on the press, especially regarding the difficulties that our newspaper is facing in the distribution of the issues in the interior.

The text of the document, which is entitled: "Reprisal?" begins saying: "We have read in ABC COLOR's issue of 10 May, page 9, that 'the free circulation of this newspaper continues to be obstructed' and it describes, calmly and objectively, the vicissitudes and delays suffered by the trucks that distribute the newspaper in the interior, thus, hindering the normal distribution of the newspaper and causing economic harm to the newspaper's distributors in the interior, people who are in the lower income brackets. Numerous readers are also deprived of news and information."

Further on, the document asks the following question: "Is it a reprisal or a joke?" And it then states: "The question is not asked to find out the causes, because we have already deduced them and everyone is commenting on them. We have asked the question in order to ponder whether those causes are justified or justifiable. Why? Because ABC COLOR is either seriously violating some law or it is not. If it is violating the law, then it should be punished in accordance with the law, but if it is not violating the law, then it should be left in peace to continue with its task. The freedom of ideas and of opinion cannot be played with. They are provided for in Article 71 of our Constitution, the same as freedom of expression and information (Article 72), with the exception of the preaching of hate among Paraguayans, the struggle of classes and the eulogy of crime or violence (Article 71)."

The document then extracts the following excerpt from Article 71: "Criticism of the law is allowed, but no one can proclaim disobedience of the law." In the following paragraph, the document states that "to discover fraud, irregularities or errors in the management of state affairs does not mean preaching hate among brothers nor does it incite violence. On the contrary: It means preventing the causes of social struggles and it means struggling for honesty, justice and public truth for the common welfare. It means building the fatherland and defending it. It means a contribution toward maintaining the good name, the honor and the dignity of institutions and the fatherland itself."

The document then recalls that "the bishops in Puebla (CELAM III [Latin American Bishops Conference] - January 1979) recommended 'respect and support for the free expression of the media and all that pertains to information, which are essential precepts of the media and its function within society, with professional ethics...'"

The document issued by the Archbishopric of Asuncion then adds: "And Vatican II, in its decree 'Among the Marvelous Inventions' (4 Dec 63) admits the courage and the usefulness of the communications media to provide a valuable aid to mankind because it can help to give a broader and more sustained view of the world; can effectively contribute for the common good; can more easily promote culture, and arts; can cooperate in establishing mutual understanding and comprehension, and can diffuse the authentic human and Christian values as an excellent manner of evangelization. There exists, then, in human society the right to information on those things that are good for man. But for the correct exercise of this right, it is absolutely necessary that information be always true and that charity and justice be respected. Information must also be honest and proper: that is, it must respect scrupulously the moral laws and the legal rights and dignity of man, both in obtaining the news and in diffusing it. "In conclusion: we believe and have confidence in the opportune intervention of the responsible persons, who with prudence, dignity and justice will reestablish normality in the case of ABC COLOR, thus giving proof that there exists freedom of the press in the country," the Archbishopric's document concludes.

ENVOY SAYS NICARAGUA WILL ACCEPT UN OBSERVERS

FL121310 Bridgetown CANA in English 1258 GMT 12 May 83

[By Walker Simon]

[Text] Mexico City, May 12, CANA-REUTER -- Nicaragua will accept United Nations civilian observers on its tense southern border with Costa Rica should the Contadora nations agree to the proposal, the Nicaraguan envoy to Mexico said yesterday.

Sending observers would be part of a wider role Nicaragua would like to see the U.N. play in Central America, Ambassador Mauricio Cuadra said. But he cautioned in a news conference that any U.N. role should be subject to approval by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, the so-called Contadora Group, whose foreign ministers were meeting yesterday in Panama City.

Cuadra's comments came in response to Costa Rica's request last week that the Contadora nations set up a peacekeeping force on its border with Nicaragua to protect its neutrality. The request was being reviewed yesterday in Panama by the Contadora ministers, a Panamanian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

Cuadra said Nicaragua would not accept under any circumstances military participation in a peace force on its Costa Rican border because this would deepen tension in the region...and would justify (military) intervention.

In San Jose, Costa Rican First Vice-President Alberto Fait said yesterday his government still was seeking a border force that was either military, civilian or a combined civilian-military force.

He said Costa Rica would accept U.N. observers in the region only if both the Contadora Group and the Organization of American States (OAS) agreed.

Fait said Costa Rica, which has no army, needs the force to block Nicaraguan Army incursions on its soil and eliminate camps which exile rebels use to launch raids on Nicaragua.

The rebel bases are the major source of bilateral tension, officials from both countries say.

COSTA RICAN VICE PRESIDENT ON CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA121505 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Mexico City -- The Reagan administration's aid to the anti-Sandinists does not help the Contadora Group's efforts, Alberto Fait, Costa Rican first vice president, has said in Mexico City.

In a news conference, Fait said that Reagan's aid to the groups opposing the Sandinist regime interferes with the efforts for a peaceful solution in Central America which the Contadora Group made up of the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama are carrying out. He added that dialogue is the only way to achieve peace in the region. He reiterated that the current Costa Rican Government will never let its territory be used to destabilize Nicaragua.

COSTA RICA

SANDINISTS REPORTEDLY EVACUATE VIGILANCE POST

PA121351 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] According to reliable Costa Rican sources, yesterday a Soviet-made helicopter evacuated the personnel of a Sandinist vigilance post located on the Nicaragua side of the mouth of the Sarapiquí River. Helicopter MI8272 of the Sandinist air force evacuated all the Sandinist personnel in that post from 1200 to 1600 yesterday. The sources added that the helicopter, which can carry some 40 people, made two trips and the post was then completely empty.

BORDER KIDNAPPINGS PROTESTED TO NICARAGUAN ENVOY

PA122105 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Costa Rica has demanded the release of three people kidnapped at the Infiernillo River on Friday, and has also protested territorial violations, rejecting the Nicaraguan Government's explanation.

Nicaraguan Ambassador to Costa Rica Rogelio Ramirez Mercado had stated in a note that the three citizens, including a minor, were arrested in the (Masapa) region, in Nicaraguan territory. The Foreign Ministry rejected this explanation, since it is completely different from the report given by the Civil Guard regional director to Interior Minister Alfonso Zuniga.

In replying to the Nicaraguan ambassador, the Foreign Ministry said that not only is his report considered unacceptable, but in view of the seriousness of these acts against Costa Rica's sovereignty and the freedom of two Costa Rican and one Nicararaguan citizen, Costa Rica presents its strongest protest. According to the Nicaraguan Embassy, Costa Rican citizens Roberts Quezada Mejia and Jose Esteban Quezada, as well as Nicaraguan citizen Francisco Antonio Guevara, are under arrest in Nicaragua.

GOVERNMENT EXPELS THREE NICARAGUANS FROM COUNTRY

PA122247 San Jose Radio Relo, in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 May 83

[Communique released by the Presidential Palace Press Office, dated 12 May 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Communique from the National Security Council: The National Security Council, during a meeting held on 12 May 1983, agreed that, in line with the policy of neutrality proclaimed by the Government Council during its 27 April 1983 meeting, it is necessary to reiterate to all residents of Costa Rica, especially the Nicaraguan citizens who are living with us, that under no circumstances will the government allow any of the following actions to be carried out on Costa Rican territory:

1. The planning or carrying out of military operations linked with the insurrectional process being experienced in Nicaragua.

2. The resupplying of illegal forces.

3. The handling over of prisoners captured in Nicaraguan territory, releasing them at places other than the Costa Rican border detachments.

4. The publishing of war bulletins or communiques.

In accordance with these agreements, the National Security Council agreed to expel from Costa Rican territory Nicaraguan citizens Fernando Chamorro, Jr, Cesar Aviles and Juan Savala. The National Security Council reaffirms that any foreigner caught carrying out one of these actions will be immediately expelled from the country.

EL SALVADOR

COLONEL COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN CABANAS

PA130024 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 May 83

[Interview by Roberto Casteneda with Colonel Roberto Rodriguez Murcia, commander of the Sensuntepeque Military Detachment in Cabanas Department; place not given -- live]

[Excerpts] [Castaneda] I have a few questions to ask you. According to the extremist radio station, the army has suffered heavy casualties in the fighting. They mention some 70 casualties and 24 prisoners and claim that they almost completely wiped out the garrison that was guarding Cinquera. What can you tell me about this?

[Rodriguez] The military situation is as follows: It is true that there were some 52 casualties among the army troops. However, it is not true that our forces in the area were practically routed, because this represents only about 4 percent of the total number of troops. As far as rebel casualties are concerned, which they perhaps did not mention, we calculate that -- we have had to bury many bodies that they have irresponsibly abandoned in the area, some 16 of their dead -- according to the information obtained and the calculations that we make in these operations, they have sustained a casualty rate of 15 percent, which would mean from 100 to 125 casualties.

[Castaneda] Colonel, how is the combing operation going at the national level? How is the army functioning at this time?

[Rodriguez] I think that it is beyond my authority to answer that question. However, I will answer as far as concerns the area within my jurisdiction, namely, Cabanas and the surrounding areas, that is, parts of the Departments of San Miguel, Chalatenango, Cuscatlan and San Vicente, where there is considerable action 24 hours a day [words indistinct].

[Castaneda] Colonel, there is another interesting issue. You mentioned that the army has buried some 16 members of the rebel groups. Did any of these dead people appear to be foreigners, or do you believe that they were all locals?

[Rodriguez] It is most likely, from their appearance that they were Salvadorans. We have had no information about anyone with strange features. However, because of their behavior and attitude, it is believed that they were not peasants. They were not from our rural areas. They may have been trained in other areas. Their features indicate that they were not peasants.

[Castaneda] There is some concern, Colonel, about the hydroelectric dams that are being guarded by your detachment and thus are to a certain extent your responsibility as the detachment commander. As you know, these plants are the Cerron Grande, 5 de Noviembre and others that are of great importance for the production of the country's electrical energy. I say there is concern because we have received calls from many people who have expressed their fear that at any time one of these plants could be destroyed completely or partially, leading to economic, social and security problems for all Salvadorans. What can you say about this, Colonel Rodriguez? Are the forces under your command fully certain that these sectors cannot be breached by the rebels?

[Rodriguez] Yes. It is logical that these plants should be a target, given the negative attitude of the international terrorists. However, we have enough units in those areas, and in my opinion some 90 to 95 percent of them are fully qualified to completely repel any terrorist action.

Moreover, you should remember that the dams themselves, because of their construction, form and structure, are rather difficult to destroy. I believe that the civilian population, all citizens, can rest assured that those objectives would be very difficult for those people to assault. They do not have the military capability for it.

MEXICAN TV SHOWS CASTILLO IN FMLN HANDS

PA120502 Paris AFP in Spanish 0356 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Mexico City, 11 May (AFP) -- Mexican state television tonight transmitted a film which shows Salvadoran Colonel Francisco Adolfo Castillo in the hands of the FMLN forces. This refutes reports that the military officer was released. Castillo, who was deputy defense minister at the time, was captured by the FMLN on 17 June, when the helicopter in which he was flying was shot down over Morazan Department.

Salvadoran media reported yesterday that Castillo had been released in Nicaragua, and that he had taken asylum at the U.S. Embassy there. Other media recalled that the Salvadoran military command had refused to exchange Castillo for political prisoners, as was proposed by the FMLN.

EDITORIAL SEES REAGAN PROMOTING 'ENDLESS WAR'

PA130332 San Salvador EL SALVADOR PROCESO in Spanish 25 Apr - 1 May 83 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Message of War"]

[Excerpts] Ronald Reagan's address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, which was broadcast in El Salvador over a radio and television network, served as a channel for him to repeat his well-known view of the world, in which Central America's problems are no more than cases in the confrontation between the "Free World" and the "communist bloc," which he considers to be a serious threat to the well-being of North Americans and the security of the entire hemisphere.

Choosing the region, especially El Salvador, as the main topic of his agenda in the area of foreign policy, the President revived the spirit of the "cold war" that was started by Truman in 1947, in an attempt to gain support for his plan, which is based on the military defeat of the Salvadoran insurgents in "the interest of democracy in Central America."

In El Salvador, President Magana and the highest economic, political and military spokesmen of the sectors that are in power declared their full agreement with and gratitude toward Reagan, while Ambassador Hinton also specified the rules of the game that are permissible in the country. In that context, and in the face of the growing generalized realization of U.S. intervention, which just a few days before had generated a formal protest from the Constituent Assembly, several official sectors appeared to feel obliged to profess their autonomy: The defense minister said that the U.S. advisers do not and will not direct the war, while at the same time he challenged the commander of the guerrillas to a duel; the Constituent Assembly declared that only the constitution that it drafts and approves will be valid, while the Central Electoral Council stated that its decisions would be made in conformity with the law and without interference from anyone. Some days later, three U.S. experts presented themselves in the country to advise the Central Electoral Council.

For its part, the FMLN reacted by intensifying its sabotage campaign. On Friday, 29 April, the guerrillas destroyed the border post at El Amatillo, occupied Santa Rosa de Lima, destroyed six bridges on the military road and the coastal road, and set fire to many commercial vehicles.

The tone of Reagan's speech appears to have served as an incentive for large-scale government actions, particularly in the area of Guazapa and the capital. Although some 20 political prisoners were released during the week, spokesmen for the clergy have again reported cases of persons who were taken out of their homes by "armed men dressed in civilian clothing," and the proliferation of decapitated bodies showing signs of torture.

Events this week appear to prove that at present the country's destiny is decided in Washington, and that the criteria applied are the "security" and the "well-being" of the U.S. citizens, not of the Central American peoples. All rhetoric aside, Reagan's speech appears to condemn Salvadorans to an endless war to benefit the interests of certain sectors of the United States. Of course, Central America is not Vietnam, but it would seem that nothing has been learned from the errors of the past.

GUATEMALA

HAVANA ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT

PA121941 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission has charged in Mexico City that in the past 10 months there have been close to 2,600 murders and disappearances, especially of peasants. The report added that the Guatemalan regime has admitted that from April to December 1982, approximately 2,000 citizens were killed. Of these, 1,794 were peasants of Indian communities.

The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission also said that in the so-called special courts created by the dictatorship, some 20 people are waiting for sentences that might include death by firing squad as recently occurred on several occasions. Since those courts were created, they have ordered the legal murder of 15 people.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT DENIES REQUESTING PEACEKEEPING FORCE

PA130206 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0002 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government denied today that it had asked the OAS or the United Nations for an international force to watch over its border with Nicaragua.

In this way the Honduran Government contradicted international press reports which said that Honduras had asked for this force and that the matter was being seriously considered at the OAS and the United Nations.

A Honduran Government bulletin also denied that Sonia Canales, the Honduran ambassador to Mexico, had made remarks in this regard. "Our diplomatic representative in Mexico has not stated that Honduras is going to request a peacekeeping force to watch over its border," the communique noted. However, it admitted that the ambassador did make statements regarding the plan to internationalize peace which Honduras proposed at the OAS on 23 March.

This plan proposes a general disarmament; a reduction in the number of foreign military advisers to zero; respect for established borders; a stop to arms trafficking; the international supervision of ports, borders and airports; and a permanent dialogue on refugees. The Honduran Government communique said that perhaps the journalists mistook the topic of international supervision for the formation of a force to watch over the border.

200 NICARAGUAN ARMY DESERTERS CROSS OVER BORDER

PA121415 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] A group of 200 Sandinist soliders deserted yesterday from the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] through Bluefields and entered Honduran territory. According to the report, the country's military and government authorities are already aware of this recent mass desertion by Sandinist soldiers and of their arrival in Honduras.

After airing this information, several people phoned us to suggest that the Honduran military authorities and the Honduran Government be very careful about these desertions because the EPS might send fifth columnists into our country to somehow involve the Honduran military in an eventual conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua. It is our duty to transmit these warnings by our listeners who, we repeat, fear that fifth columnists might interfere in the case of an eventual conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua. Although this information is still unofficial, it was provided by reliable sources.

NICARAGUAN PLANES OVERFLY, STRAFE AREA

PA121721 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 May 83 p 14

[Text] Three Sandinist People's Army (EPS) planes from Nicaragua flew over the Honduran community of Cifuentes, jurisdiction of Las Trojes, in El Paraiso, and proceeded to fire at the local people. Major Juan Blas Salazar, director of the Department of National Investigation (DIN), who received a report from that place yesterday morning, made this announcement yesterday.

In the afternoon, the DIN director told journalists that this "criminal action by the EPS, in firing against the Honduran people, constitutes an act of aggression against our country." They, Salazar said in reference to the Sandinists, came with three of their planes and fired at the homes of Honduran people.

The Sandinists, he added, flew as far as the property of Captain Pio Flores. A few minutes later they flew back after again strafing the area. "There have been no reports of casualties from this Marxist attack by Nicaragua, but I think that the Honduran Foreign Ministry will report more thoroughly on this incident," Salazar said finally.

NEWS AGENCY ACCUSED OF BEING LEFTIST MOUTHPIECE

PA130312 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 May 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] HONDUPRESS is a foreign news agency that is distorting what is really happening in Central America. This news agency, which operates in Honduras, is AGENCIA DE PRENSA HONDURENA, better known as HONDUPRESS, which serves as mouthpiece for the leftist AGENCIA INDEPENDIENTE DE PRENSA, AIP, which the FMLN of El Salvador has set up in San Jose, Costa Rica, to disseminate exclusively subversive news against the democratic regimes of Central America.

HONDUPRESS has been very subtle in the way it has managed to associate itself with local radio stations and with the highest political, social and economic circles of the country. Many newsmen are using HONDUPRESS material in their radio newscasts as a means of having an extra income from publicizing them. [Vias de la publicidad].

A HONDUPRESS news bulletin supposedly containing international news is periodically delivered to the deputies of Congress, to the State secretaries and assistant secretaries, to labor leaders, and to social organizations. In the case of Honduras, we can say that corrupt Honduran newsmen of definite Marxist leanings are sending distorted news to other Central American news agencies known as NICAPRESS, TICAPRESS, SALPRESS and GUATEPRESS.

Let us find out about HONDUPRESS. The Honduran Government ought to investigate who is financing this news agency and what its objectives are. There are Hondurans involved in the administration of HONDUPRESS.

RUDE PRAVO INTERVIEWS COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF

AU091355 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 5 May 83 p 6

[Oldrich Pospisil interview with Rigoberto Padilla, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras, during the latter's "short stay in Prague a few days ago": "The People Will Never Become Reconciled to U.S. Hegemony"]

[Text] U.S. representatives have made the territory of Honduras the main base for their interventionist, aggressive policy in Central America. Comrade Rigoberto Padilla, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras, who during his short stay in Prague a few days ago, gave an interview to RUDE PRAVO'S correspondent, assessed the causes of this situation.

[Padilla] The plan to make Honduras the base for interventions in Central America and the Caribbean is a product of the global tactics and strategy of imperialism. It is because Honduras is the only Central American state bordering on three countries that have either overthrown imperialist domination, which is the case with Nicaragua, or are engaged in an active struggle against it, which is the case with El Salvador and Guatemala. Besides, there is yet another factor: In Honduras, class struggle has not yet become as acute as it has in the other Central American countries.

In a way, this situation was affected by certain social and sociopolitical reforms that were carried out in Honduras in the first half of the seventies. This was at the time of the military rule of the so-called Peruvians, as the governing military men were called because of their affinity for the more radical military government of General Velasco Alvarado in Peru at that time. An agricultural reform was carried out in our country which limited the power and the wealth of large estate owners and made possible the founding of cooperatives. The objective of these reforms was, basically, to modernize the country and its economic structure on capitalist foundations and to strengthen the young national bourgeoisie. By means of certain sociopolitical reforms, the national bourgeoisie succeeded in temporarily blunting the edge of class struggle, which, however, was exacerbating in the neighborhood of Honduras...

[Pospisil] What is the record of the present civilian government from this point of view?

[Padilla] It is true that since 1980 we have had again, at least nominally, a civilian government, which is led by President Suazo Cordova. A bourgeois-democratic constitution was adopted. As has become known, the Honduran model of "limited, sensible democracy" was to become some sort of a counterbalance to the "totalitarian dictatorship of the Sandinists" in neighboring Nicaragua, which this "limited democracy" was supposed to overshadow and make to appear less. It is a fact that before the true intentions of the makers of this Honduran "democracy" became known, they were successful in enlisting the support of a considerable segment of the population. The overwhelming majority of voters voted in favor of Suazo Cordova's candidacy for the presidency because he enjoyed great prestige and was promising popular measures. Soon, however, all too soon, he disappointed all the expectations of many people who had given credence to him, and the time of repressions and of the militarization of the whole state has come. This is the time which we are now witnessing.

[Pospisil] Who has the real power in his hands?

[Padilla] General G. Alvarez Martinez, who was promoted to the rank of general at a speed that runs counter to all army procedures, has become the "strong man." It is an open secret that this man has close links with the Pentagon in Washington.

His unusually rapid promotion and the hard militaristic line he asserts have generated a certain dissatisfaction even within the Army circles themselves. Some high-ranking officers, among them the former chief of the Army's intelligence service, who disapproved of Alvarez' support for the United States' interventionist policy, were deprived of their posts and some of them have even been deported. The civilian government of Suazo Cordova thus not only has failed to resolve any of the country's social and economic problems, but it has also practically handed real power in the country to those who are transforming it into a possible military base for the United States and its aggressive policy.

[Pospisil] What could you say about the government's economic measures?

[Padilla] The economic policy of Suazo's government has been termed neo-liberal. Honduras is left at the mercy of the International Monetary Fund and its blackmail and the reforms are being gradually done away with. This is especially true of agrarian reform, despite the resistance of members of the cooperatives and self-administrative farms that were established. Hundreds of small industrial and craftman's enterprises are going bankrupt every year. Private capital and supranational or, as we call them, "voracious" monopolies are once again becoming the unbridled masters of Honduras. And what is the outcome? A total of 24 percent of Hondurans in the productive age are unemployed and 40 percent are only partially employed. Inflation and foreign debt are constantly growing.

[Pospisil] How does the opposition respond to this?

[Padilla] It is growing in strength. Today, it is not just the left wing that speaks out against the government, but also the Christian Democrats, the Liberals -- especially the People's Liberal Alliance, a rather influential party of a social democratic character -- and many Catholic priests and believers. The possibility is thus emerging of a large organized opposition front jointly striving for the respect of democratic rights, the precedence of civil rights over the military's rights, an end to repression and the exposure and punishment of those who abducted and murdered hundreds of Honduran democrats, patriots and trade union functionaries.

Well informed people in Honduras know well that Gen Alvarez Martinez is connected with many large enterpreneurs and representatives of the extreme right wing in the state apparatus and in the Army, and that they are considering the possibility of organizing at a suitable moment a putsch and eliminating even the present mere semblance of democracy. This is how afraid they are of the growing opposition. After the recently reinforced aggressive actions by followers of Somoza from Honduras against Nicaragua, six democratic Honduran organizations, among them our party, have called on the people not to let themselves be deceived by the chauvinistic campaign and dragged into a war against fraternal peoples. A regional war in Central America would be a catastrophe for this region and a threat to peace in the world. No, the people of Honduras do not want to serve as cannon fodder for the Pentagon and will not become reconciled to its hegemony.

[Pospisil] How do you assess the present situation of the Communist Party and its impact on the workers class and the people of Honduras?

[Padilla] Our party has considerable influence on workers and a segment of the middle classes associated in mass organizations. All social and economic gains of the working people in the last 25 years -- which, however, have not changed the essence of the regime -- are connected in one way or another with the Communist Party's activity.

As far as the present serious situation is concerned, our party believes that -- in view of the interventionist policy of the top Army echelons and their allies in the state political apparatus, in view of their repressive policy and the fact that Honduras is practically becoming the United States' military base -- the communists and their allies in other revolutionary democratic and patriotic organizations now have no other choice but to prepare for armed struggle. The Central Committee of our party has adopted the appropriate decisions concerning the party's reorganization and its linkage with mass organizations and we are gradually going over into illegality or partial illegality.

Corresponding to the party's new organizational structure, which reckons with armed struggle, is also the party cadres' training for combat. We have drawn lessons from the failures of some segments of the communist movement in Latin America, which had to pay very dearly for their lack of preparedness to engage in armed struggle.

In conclusion, allow me to say that your national hero Julius Fucik and his "Reportage from Under the Gallows" serve as a powerful agitator and propagandist in Honduras. Whenever this book [which consists of smuggled-out prison notes describing the author's life as an illegal communist in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and his subsequent experiences in Nazi prisons] is published in Latin America, it is always very quickly sold out. In practical terms, we communists in Honduras, regard every young man who has read and knows well Fucik's "Reportage from Under the Gallows" as a potential party candidate. Fucik continues to fight.

NICARAGUA

MEETING TO DISCUSS U.S. SUGAR IMPORTS REQUESTED

PA122324 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2137 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Washington, 12 May (EFE) -- Nicaragua has requested a special meeting of the Special Commission for Consultation and Negotiation (Cecon), which operates under the OAS, to discuss the reduction of U.S. sugar imports from Nicaragua.

Edgar Parrales, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, requested the meeting for Tuesday from Pedro Daza, his Chilean colleague and president of the Cecon. A top OAS official told EFE that the request is being considered.

The Managua Government interpreted the reduction of sugar imports from 58,800 tons to 6,000 tons, a decision made by President Reagan's administration, as "political punishment." According to Article 13 of the Cecon rules, a call for a special meeting can be made by the Cecon president after consulting member states and establishing that at least five of them support the request.

A Nicaraguan delegation source told EFE that the Sandinist Government intends "to reveal the aggressive plans of President Reagan's Republican administration against a sovereign nation."

The source noted that the United States openly resorted to economic pressures in order to destabilize the revolutionary process and "smother" the Managua Government.

It was officially reported that the United States adopted this measure to reduce the resources that the Sandinists have to help Salvadoran guerrillas and encourage subversion in Central America.

The Nicaraguan Embassy reiterated that the U.S. "escalation" has been increasing in the economic and military spheres.

Regarding this, the diplomatic mission mentioned that since 1981 the U.S. Government has been "sabotaging" every Nicaraguan effort to obtain loans from international financial organizations, adding that it had also prepared "an invasion force" to try and overthrow the revolutionary government.

Havana on Sugar Quota Reduction

PA122004 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Ramiro Gurdian, president of the Union of Private Agricultural Producers, has said that the 90-percent reduction of the Nicaraguan sugar quota is a hard blow to the Nicaraguan private sector. Gurdian gave statistics on this and stressed that more than 50 percent of Nicaragua's sugar is produced by the San Antonio sugar mill, the country's only private sugar mill. He said that approximately 60 percent of the cane is planted by the private sector.

The president of the Nicaraguan agricultural producers said the U.S. Government should reconsider the decision since it affects everyone equally. He promised that he will undertake efforts to have the U.S. Embassy in Managua study the problem in more detail.

MIGUEL D'ESCOTO SPEAKS TO UN CORRESPONDENTS

PA122339 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2232 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] United Nations, 12 May (EFE) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said today that Nicaragua is trying to get the UN Security Council to force the United States to abide by the UN Charter and to end the war it is waging against Nicaragua. At a luncheon hosted by the Association of UN Correspondents, D'Escoto said that the Security Council is waiting for the results of the current meeting of the Contadora Group, whose members might meet tomorrow with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

D'Escoto said that one of the main obstacles preventing the smooth operation of the Security Council is the veto right of the permanent members, especially the United States. By using this mechanism and its economic and military might, he added, the United States has proclaimed itself the "prosecutor, judge and executioner" of what is happening in Nicaragua today.

Regarding U.S. charges that Nicaragua is supplying arms to the guerrillas that are fighting against the Salvadoran Government, D'Escoto said that this is false, that his government is sympathetic toward these fighters, but only gives them moral support.

On the tense situation on the Honduran border, the minister said that in the past Nicaragua has asked Honduras to accept holding bilateral meetings to solve the problem, but that Honduras rejected the offer several times, showing that its policy is directed entirely by the United States.

D'Escoto refuted the U.S. Administration's interpretation of the situation in his country.

He explained that the counterrevolutionary forces attacking his government are not a popular movement opposed to the Sandinist regime, but mercenaries and former members of the military under Somoza, who are financed, trained, and directed by Washington for the purpose of overthrowing the Managua government.

Within this frame of things, D'Escoto said, Nicaragua does not have to change its political system, as the United States is demanding, because its government has the support of the Nicaraguan people. Therefore, Nicaragua does not have to make any concessions to persuade the Reagan administration to halt its aggressive policies.

The Nicaraguan minister said: "We have come here (to the Security Council) to explain the current situation in my country, and to denounce the fact that the United States is waging a war against Nicaragua. We are not asking for condemnation, but for the Security Council to intervene on behalf of peace."

He added: "I hope that after everything that has taken place so far, the United States will decide to give up its attempts to try to change Nicaragua's political course, and that no one else will die as a result of Reagan's policy and of this dirty and no longer very secret war."

HAVANA CITES BAYARDO ARCE ON CONTADORA TALKS

PA112255 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 83

[Text] In Managua, Bayardo Arce, member of the FSLN National Directorate, has stressed the importance of the Contadora Group initiatives intended to achieve political solutions to the Central American crisis.

On his return from his visits to Colombia and Panama, Arce stressed the importance of the Contadora Group meeting that will begin tomorrow in Panama City with the objective of discussing this matter. The Contadora Group is formed by Panama, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Regarding the U.S. decision to reduce by almost 90 percent the quota of sugar it buys from Nicaragua, Arce said that it is one more action within the overall plan of aggressions against Nicaragua. He said that the U.S. is also planning actions that would affect other Nicaraguan export products, and added that the anti-Sandinist actions have not been carried out all at once because the United States has not been able to achieve the internal and foreign political conditions to enable it to develop its aggression. Arce said that since Washington has not been able to settle large contingents of former Somozist guards in Nicaragua, it has decided to introduce some variations to its plan.

BORDER TROOPS CHIEF REPORTS CLASHES IN JALAPA

PA111520 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Jalapa, Nicaragua (ANN) -- The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] repelled a new counterrevolutionary raid against Nicaraguan territory in El Siuse, only 200 meters from the Honduran border in the northwestern Department of Nueva Segovia.

Captain Rodrigo Gonzalez, chief of the border troops in Jalapa, 215 km northeast of the capital, reported that the clashes started at noon on Monday and lasted until 0600 on Tuesday.

The EPS has full control of the situation, even though the number of casualties suffered by the attackers has not yet been determined, according to the same source. The counterrevolutionaries headed by the Somozist leader known as "El Caminante" started to take positions in El Siuse early yesterday. The area is a valley surrounded by wild mountains, one of which borders on Honduran territory. The clash took place some 200 meters from the border, according to Gonzalez. He added that the attackers used FAL, Galil and Chinese AK rifles, and also (ROK-7) grenade launchers in the action.

In addition, the military chief said that due to the EPS actions to contain the attack in El Siuse, the attackers were forced to ask for reinforcements.

A counterrevolutionary force led by "El Fugitivo" arrived, increasing the number of men to about 200. Capt Gonzalez said that the invading contingent again used Honduran territory as its rear base. However, he finally said, the Sandinist troops refused to answer the fire from Honduras out of respect for Honduran territorial integrity.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES KIDNAP, MURDER PEASANTS

PA112055 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 83

[Text] Several counterrevolutionaries under traitor Pastore brutally murdered 11 peasants in three small areas within 35 km northeast of San Carlos, in Rio San Juan Department. They also threatened more than 20 families with death if the peasants did not join or support the criminal actions. Those murdered were members of the Sandinist People's Militia, the People's Adult Education Collectives, UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], and other revolutionary organizations.

Relatives of the victims reported that they were dragged out of their beds by counter-revolutionary groups who came from Costa Rican territory. Juan Jose Ponce and his sons Danilo and Catalino, brothers Zamoran and Carrasco, among others, were kidnapped and murdered by the enemies of the revolution who arrived at the place. Meanwhile, Javier Alvarez, political secretary of the Sandinist Front in the area, denounced the existence of camps on the other side of the San Juan River and the support that some members of the Costa Rican Rural Guard give the counterrevolutionaries.

COMMUNIQUE ON 3 MAY ATTACK FROM COSTA RICA

PA120433 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0403 GMT 12 May 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 11 May]

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua reports to the public that at 0410 on 3 May 1983 a group of 50 counterrevolutionaries from Costa Rican territory attacked the Papaturro border post, located 4 km from the border on the southern side of the Lake of Nicaragua. This incident has already been reported by the Defense Ministry.

As a result of this new aggression on our territory by counterrevolutionary bands, five counterrevolutionaries were killed and one wounded. Among them was Francisco Rodriguez, a former major of the Costa Rican rural assistance guard.

The Nicaraguan Government has reported these incidents to the Costa Rican authorities. Managua 11 May 1983

REBELS CAPTURED IN SAN JUAN RIVER AREA

PA122059 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 May 83 pp 1, 5

[Report by special correspondent Xavier Reyes Alba]

[Excerpts] San Carlos, San Juan River -- On 5 May members of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, captured four counterrevolutionaries, including two Costa Rican citizens, on Nicaraguan territory.

The first reports indicate that they belong to the band that on 3 May attacked the the Bremen boat anchored at El Diamente Island, on the San Juan River for more than 24 hours.

The counterrevolutionaries have been identified as Jose Aurelio Ruiz Espinoza, Roberto Guezada Mejia, Jose Esteban Quezada Pena, and Francisco Antonio Guevara. All of them carried weapons and equipment, which were recovered by the border guards. The group was arrested on 5 May at 1400 near the Bremen boat, when they were caught in a launch on the San Juan River. They were trying to reach Costa Rica to get food.

The Weapons

The weapons recovered from the counterrevolutionaries are two AK Chinese rifles, a 38-cal revolver with a comouflaged talij [as published in Spanish] AK clips, jungle boots, and a large amount of ammunition. In addition to shells for M-79 grenade lauchers, fragments of LAW rockets and other military supplies were found near the boat. A large quantity of printed prayers and propaganda, evidently used to manipulate religion, was also found in their knapsacks.

ANTI-SANDINIST CASUALTIES PUT AT 243 DEAD

PA130412 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] It was reported today that 243 counterrevolutionaries have been killed, 61 wounded and 12 taken prisoners during the clashes between the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, and the Somozist counterrevolutionary bands financed by U.S. imperialism. During the months of March and April there was an increase in the punitive actions by the counterrevolutionaries. These actions were stopped by the members of the reserve battalions, the people's militia and the EPS.

The Revolutionary Government has recovered a large number of weapons from the counter-revolutionaries, such as Chinese made FAL and AKA rifles, mortars, grenade launchers, rockets, C-4 explosives as well as a sophisticated field hospital.

INTERIOR MINISTER BORGE DEFENDS NONALIGNED STANCE

PM120739 Rome LA REPUBLICA in Italian 5 May 83 p 8

[Interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge by Stefano Malatesta in Managua in May, date not specified]

[Excerpt] Managua, May -- We talked with Borge in his office on the top floor of the Interior Ministry. The commander, a short man with a very precise way of speaking, is the only survivor of the founders of the Sandinista Front, the government's most representative and authoritative leader. Several hand-made crucifixes fashioned from wood or wicker hang behind his desk. We asked him why it was stated in an initial communique yesterday that Hondruan regular troops too had entered Nicaraguan territory--an unprecedented, and subsequently denied, event.

"The Hondruan troops," he said "provided artillery support for the attack but did not enter our territory: That would have been a declaration of war. To be frank, there was an error on the part of our intelligence services." (However, the entry of Hondruan troops to provide logistical backup and to remove the wounded was confirmed by the Defense Ministry - LA REPUBBLICA editor's note)

[Question] Were you expecting the attack?

[Answer] The Somozists mentioned a May offensive, which they have now brought forward. I believe that there will be further such attempts in the coming months, both in the north and in the south. Just yesterday there was a clash lasting 6 hours, with casualities and two dead. We captured many weapons and took several of Mr Eden Pastora's guerrillas prisoner.

[Question] Is the alliance between Robelo, Pastora, and the Somozaists now a certainty?

[Answer] Very much so. There is a formal and real alliance between Robelo, Pastora, Chamorro "the black," and the Somozists. The Nicaraguan Democratic Front has sent large numbers of advisers south to Pastora. Moreover, Robelo, who has become Pastora's spokesman, says that the Somozists are 10 [as published] patriots.

[Question] But what was the purpose of the invasion? What do the Somozists want?

[Answer] The Nicaraguan Democratic Front is backed, financed, and advised by the United States, as everyone knows. At the start of the war it seemed that the United States wanted to create obstacles to supposed aid on our part for the guerrillas in El Salvador. Then the initial plan gradually changed. The Americans are now trying to destabilize and overthrow the government in Nicaragua so as to replace it with elements that they call democratic, with the Somozists. It is intended to create a situation -- or the impression of a situation — of civil war comparable to that in El Salvador, so as to be able to negotiate both problems together. If, the United States says, the guerrillas in El Salvador lay down their weapons, then we will withdraw the Somozists from the border. It is an absurd position. We are not prepared to deal with both issues at the same level. We are not prepared to sell the liberation war in El Salvador and we do not relinquish our right to defend ourselves.

[Question] Have you attempted an open dialogue with the United States; have you made any proposals?

[Answer] We have tried, we have stressed the need to conduct a dialogue, but all our efforts have failed. Reagan is now saying that they have made efforts too; it is a cynical remark. Our is such an open stance that just a few days ago we invited Mr Stone (Reagan's envoy to Central America) to come to Managua to become acquainted with our real situation, to speak with us; Let him visit the borders, examine the situation on the spot.

[Question] You have announced that you have no Soviet missiles on your territory, but at the same time you want to defend yourselves with whatever weapons you consider opportune.

[Answer] Missiles are not defensive, but offensive weapons. We only want to defend our territory, not to attack U.S. territory. We will never install Soviet nuclear missiles, even in the future. This does not mean depriving oneself of other weapons with a solely defensive purpose.

[Question] There seems to be a constantly recurring factor in the evolution of U.S. relations with Latin American countries carrying out a revolution; a promising start followed by a progressive deterioration.

[Answer] The blame is not ours but belongs to imperialism's distorted view of Latin America's problems.

The Americans would like a revolution in fact to be something else. They believe that if a people liberate themselves they will again want to become slaves. When we took certain decisions, which in no way conflicted with the original plan, they began to get scared. The so-called "initial expectations" were used as a method of exerting pressure to force us to act as they want.

[Question] Many observers -- not Americans but Europeans -- maintain that, of the three principles on which the Sandinist revolution was founded -- the mixed economy, pluralism, and nonalignment -- only the first is left.

[Answer] Some Europeans have very American viewpoints. Let us keep to the facts: In Nicaragua there are 11 or 12 parties apart from the Sandinista Front. Furthermore, our international stance is appreciated by anyone with even the slightest independence of assessment. The fact is that they want our nonalignment to mean alignment with the United States, as has happened with certain European nations. Thus in their opinion pluralism should be like that of certain false and demagogic democracies that exist in Latin America. They would like us to be like other countries where there has been no revolution. In our country, however, pluralism, a mixed economy, and nonalignment are alive within a revolution.

[Question] There is nonalignment and nonalignment. You have recognized Afghanistan, are forging ties with Mongolia and North Korea, receive weapons from Libya....

[Answer] As far as we are concerned, nonalignment means friendship with every country that offers us it. If we can go to Libya it is because we need no visa. If we are not Reagan's friends it is because the U.S. President has declared war on us. We have no difficulty in being friends of the U.S. Administration -- but it must be an impartial friendship on both sides. We are a sovereign state and claim the right to maintain relations with anyone — with Mexico, for instance, with Venezuela and Colombia, with several European countries such as the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, and Spain. With what moral authority do Latin American countries that breathe through Reagan's nose accuse us of not being nonaligned? What would a refusal of the USSR's impartial friendship have meant to us? A U.S. congressman with whom I spoke recently said: "The communique in which Andropov declares respect for Nicaragua's sovereignty and right to self-determination could confidently be signed by Reagan too." If he did so we would be pleased.

[Question] Let us talk about general elections, which have never been held in Nicaragua since the revolution. You have promised them for 1985. What kind will they be?

[Answer] We are discussing this. We do not want to organize a farce, as often happens in Latin America. We are examining other countries' models but we also want the elections to match Nicaragua's real conditions, our own way of life.

[Question] The elections should be preceded by a period of freedom, so as to permit discussion and propaganda without fear. Do you accept at least in theory that the opposition could take power?

[Answer] If there is fighting on the outskirts of Managua it will be difficult to hold the elections. But if the enemy is defeated, then the emergency law will have no raison d'etre. As for the opposition, it has every right to take power if the people so desire. This possibility was ruled out in an initial bill, but we changed our minds.

ROME PAPER INTERVIEWS ANTI-SANDINIST LEADER

PM111500 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 4 May 83 p 9

[Interview with Nicaraguan Revolutionary Democratic Alliance leader Alfonso Robelo by Andrea Robilant in Washington on 3 May]

[Excerpt] Washington 3 May -- [Question] Why have you switched from political opposition to military action?

[Answer] Two reasons. First, for over a year we tried to initiate a dialogue with the Sandinist junta in the hope of reaching a political agreement. But they refused to heed us and systematically closed every door. Second, U.S. "liberals," European leaders and members of the Socialist International -- that is, the ones that should be our natural allies -- privately express their support for our cause but in public prefer not to align with us. We had no choice. We must convince the world public that we are not prepared to surrender and therefore we decided to commit ourselves militarily.

[Question] Dispatches arriving from the field mention a Revolutionary Democratic Alliance [Arde] force of about 700 men. How can you hope for a military victory against an army of over 25,000?

[Answer] I am not authorized to reveal the number of our troops, but I assure you that there are many more than 700 of them. One must also bear in mind that the many defections from the enemy camp, the restlessness and dissatisfaction undermining the Sandinist Army.

[Question] Do you therefore hope for a military victory?

[Answer] We opened up a front so as to exert pressure on the junta and to draw public attention to us. Our objective remains a negotiated solution, but if the Sandinists continue to keep the door closed we will continue to fight.

[Question] With the help of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front [FDN] forces, led by former Somozists, fighting in the North?

[Answer] As yet there is no alliance between the Arde and FDN. We have created a line of communication to keep contacts open between the two forces, but military action is not coordinated. This does not rule out the possibility that in future the two groups will unite and that their command structures will be integrated. For the time being I see the armed conflict against the Sandinists as a medium-term conflict that will not be resolved in the immediate term. This is why an alliance between the two anti-Sandinists forces is possible. Now the FDN is not the enemy.

[Question] If, as you predict, the conflict is not short-lived, where do you intend to obtain the necessary weapons and finance?

[Answer] For the time being we obtain weapons directly within Nicaraguan territory or purchase them on the black market. Money reaches us from organizations and private citizens in Latin America (Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela), in the United States and even in Western Europe.

[Question] You and Commander Pastora took part in the 1979 revolution. But the FDN forces fighting from Honduras are mostly composed of former Somozists.

Is there not a danger of their unpopularity acting against you, precisely when you are seeking international public support?

[Answer] We maintain a certain distance from the FDN and have hitherto chosen to remain independent. Nevertheless, I want to stress that the most extremist elements of the former Somozaist guard no longer belong to the FDN and we look favorably on the rise of moderate elements to the military leadership of that organization. For that matter, this is the Reagan administration's attitude. There is a clear attempt to dilute the FDN's Somozist coloring.

[Question] Did you come to Washington at the Americans' invitation?

[Answer] No. It was I who asked to talk to the Administration. On Friday I met with Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Thomas Enders and explained to him why we decided to open up a military front. But I also said repeatedly that our objective remains that of reaching a political agreement with the Sandinists.

[Question] Does the Administration share that objective?

[Answer] Enders told me that the United States favors negotiations as long as they open the door to a legitimate accord guaranteeing the establishment of democratic structures in Nicaragua. Furthermore, this willingness to conduct a dialogue was previously expressed by President Reagan in his address to Congress last Wednesday.

[Question] Do you share President Reagan's theory that the crisis in Central America is due to an East-West conflict?

[Answer] I agree with Reagan. As long as the Sandinista junta is backed by the Soviet Union; as long as there are thousands of Cubans in Nicaragua; one cannot believe that the situation can be resolved from within.

[Question] The attitude of the Congress "liberals," whose support you are requesting, seems quite different. In the Democrats' reply to Reagan's speech, Senator Christopher Dodd said that the root of the conflict is not an East-West conflict but the poverty and social inequality that have held Central America in their grip for years.

[Answer] Economic and social factors are undoubtedly important, but they are not the root of the problem. I want to repeat it: the Sandinist junta's power is based on Moscow's and Havana's support. There is much dissatisfaction among the Nicaraguan people, and the opposition to the regime is increasing from day to day. But it is absurd to believe that the Nicaraguan people can resolve the crisis themselves. The situation must be recognized for what it is, and at this point is can only be resolved at the international level.

CLERGYMEN EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR EXPELLED PRIEST

PA130237 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Managua, 12 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Nine priests of Chontales and Rio San Juan Departments today expressed solidarity with Spanish Priest Timoteo Merino, who was expelled by the Nicaraguan Government for interfering in the country's politics. A communique issued by these clergymen stressed that Merino had been involved in a pastoral mission in the San Carlos, Las Azucenas and El Castillo region since before the Sandinist victory.

They also said that the Juigalpa prelacy to which the Spanish priest belonged has had other similar cases of "harassment and even threats against other priests which have not been disclosed."

MEXICAN COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY PAYS VISIT

PA120506 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Within the framework of the celebration of the "Year of Communications," Rodolfo Felix Valdes, Mexican communications and transport secretary, arrived in our country today and met with revolutionary government officials. Regarding the reasons for his visit, the Mexican communications and transport secretary said:

[Begin recording] One of the objectives in this "Year of Communications" is to exchange experiences and knowledge on the subject of communications among the member countries of the United Nations. Therefore, for us it was very pleasant to receive the invitation from the Nicaraguan Government, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and we accepted with pleasure. We hope that during our short stay in Nicaragua we will be able to exchange experience and ideas, make suggestions, and plan actions so that the relations between Mexico and Nicaragua in the field of communications will continue to grow stronger in the future. [end recording]

INDIANS CALL FOR UNITY OF ANTI-SANDINISTS

PA122201 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1831 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Indian organization Misura [Miskitos, Sumus and Ramas] has issued a call in Tegucigalpa to "able the groups that are struggling to overthrow the Nicaraguan communist regime to unite in a struggle that will restore democracy" in that Central American country.

The movement's political commission spoke here in a news conference in which it confirmed that it will fight the FSLN government "until it is expelled from Nicaragua."

The speakers described the Nicaraguan Government as "the champion of human rights violations" and blamed it for the murder of thousands of Indians "who did not agree with the totalitarian policy established in the country."

Wiclef Diego, one of the members of the Misura political commission, accused the Sandinists of having distorted the original objectives of the Sandinist revolution, and said that "we were deceived; we thought we were struggling for the people and not for Fidel Castro."

The Indians insisted on the need to grant autonomy to the members of their race, and proclaimed that this will be the main objective of their struggle, "which will not end until the government of the nine commanders has been destroyed."

The speakers showed the local press documents and photographs along with accounts of Indians who said that they had been tortured by the Sandinist soldiers, as well as proof of the murder of Indians of the Honduran Atlantic region.

The Indians also accused the Nicaraguan Government of trying to destroy democracy in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, "thanks to the Soviet intervention and the help of a large army armed and trained by Cuban mercenaries."

The members of the Misura political commission also said that the Sandinist regime is carrying out a slanderous international campaign against the rest of the region's governments and the groups that are trying to reestablish freedom in Nicaragua.

The Misura representatives said that in 1983 alone, the Sandinists destroyed 49 Indian communities, burned more than 4,000 houses, cut down large wooded areas and killed animals and people.

The Indians also said that in Tulimbla, the Sandinists filled the local Catholic church with all the disabled of the region and set fire to the building, killing all those inside. The families of the people killed in Tulimbla refused to bury their relatives "so that they would serve as an example of the barbarity of the Sandinist regime," the Misura delegates said:

The Indians said that their movement is clandestine, that it is formed by the Misquito, Sumu and Rama tribes, and that among other activities they are in charge of the operations of Radio Miskut, which broadcasts anti-Sandinist propaganda.

ARDE ALLEGES ARMY KIDNAPPING OF PEASANTS

PA082345 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 May 83

[Communique No. 3 issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutinary Alliance (Arde) a Armed Forces General Command "from the mountains in Nicaragua" dated 6 May 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Arde General Command wishes to report to the Nicaraguan people and the world's other free peoples that:

1. At 1400 on 5 May, Costa Rican peasants Jose Esteban Quesada Ugalde, 47, and his son Roberto Quesada Mejia, 14, were kidnapped by members of the Managua regime's interventionist army and taken to the garrison at El Castillo, where they are still being held prisoner.

2. At 1500 on 5 May, two Nicaraguan peasants living on the banks of the San Juan River in Nicaraguan territory were also kidnapped by members of the Managua regime's interventionist army and were also taken to El Castillo garrison, where they still remain under custody. These four peasants were kidnapped for refusing to supply information to Nicaraguan state security officers. Arde wishes to report this new abuse of humble peasants, which reveals the Managua regime's systematic aggression.

3. At 1600 on 5 May 1983, Arde forces clashed with members of the Sarapique garrison in Nicaraguan territory. After shots were exchanged, fifteen members of the regular army decided to join the ranks of the defenders of the nation's sovereignty. The militia leaders of the area, Donald Sandoval Pena and Carlos Antonio Acevedo, explained that the decision to do so reflected their patriotic and nationalistic feelings and declared that they could no longer stand by and watch while the country is surrendered to foreign interests. No to totalitarianism and no return to the past! Free Fatherland or Death!

ARDE WAR BULLETIN REPORTS 37 ENEMY CASUALTIES

PA090025 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 May 83

[War bulletin No. 5 issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) Armed Forces General Command "from the mountains in Nicaragua"; dated 6 May 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Arde General Command reports to our people that: 1. At 1730 on 5 May 1983 the Ramon Raudales column reported that at La Fonseca, near the Nueva Guinea neighborhood, 45 km from the Costa Rican border, it engaged in heavy fighting with Managua's occupation army. Twenty-two members of the interventionist army were killed in this clash.

2. At 1120 on 5 May 1983 the Pedro Pablo Meneses squad attacked Port Morrillo on the Lake of Nicaragua, 10 km from San Carlos, San Juan River Department. After several hours of fighting, the occupation army forces were forced to retreat, taking their dead and wounded with them. According to information obtained later, the enemy suffered 15 casualties in the action. Our forces reported no casualties in either battle. Our armed forces' morale remains high and our army, which defends the nation's sovereignty, is accomplishing all of its military objectives and continues its advance deep into Nicaraguan territory. No to totalitarianism and no return to the past! Free Fatherland or death!

ARDE FORCES REPORT ATTACKS IN RIVAS AREA

PA101841 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 10 May 83

[Communique No. 9 issued by the General Command of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance Armed Forces on 9 May from the "mountains of Nicaragua" -- read by announcer]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde, Armed Forces reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free people of the world: 1. At 1313, the Francisco Gutierrez Aguirre Column of the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front attacked the (Cibalsa) military base at the junction of the San Juan del Sur-Rivas road with RPG-7, M79 and rifle fire. In several hours of fighting, we inflicted many dead and wounded on the enemy, including a sergeant with the last name of Gollado.

2. At the same time, the jail of the city of Rivas was stormed and seized, inflicting many dead and wounded on the interventionist army of the totalitarian Managua regime and obtaining the release of political prisoners.

3. To facilitate these operations, we were forced to topple electric power poles with electricity transformers.

4. In the city of San Jose, on the banks of the Lake of Nicaragua, squads of the Francisco Gutierrez Aguirre Column took positions on kilometer 7 of the city of Rivas, exchanging gunfire with members of the interventionist army of the totalitarian Managua regime. This action was used to distribute political propaganda. After these operations, our squads of the army that defends the homeland's sovereignty went to the mountains of Rivas Department to continue from there our struggle for the rescue of the Nicaraguan revolution. We can state that we did not suffer any casualties. Mountains of Nicaragua, 9 May 1983. Without totalitarianism and without a return to the past. Free fatherland or death! General Command of the Arde Armed Forces.

CAPITOL AIRLINES PLANE HIJACKED TO HAVANA

PA130353 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0337 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Havana, 12 May (EFE) -- Reliable sources have told EFE that the U.S. Capitol Airlines airplane diverted tonight to Havana had more than 200 passengers abroad. The aircraft, a DC-8 that was flying from Puerto Rico to Miami, landed at the Jose Marti International Airport at 0046 GMT.

Havana airport authorities have maintained complete silence, and to this moment have offered no details regarding the hijacking. Only 2 weeks ago, another Capitol Airlines aircraft on the same route was diverted to Havana by a Cuban in exile who was trying to return to Cuba.

Hijacker Surrenders, Passengers Safe

PA130416 Paris AFP in Spanish 0353 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Havana, 12 May (AFP) -- It has been learned from the [Jose Marti International] Airport Directorate that the 230 passengers of the Capitol Airlines plane diverted to Cuba tonight are safe and sound, and that the hijacker has surrendered to Cuban authorities.

ROA KOURI ADDRESSES UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

PA121730 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Speaking to the UN Disarmament Commission, Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, said that in opposition to humankind's aspirations, the United States continues to carry out a warmongering policy to try to achieve a nuclear superiority that will take the world to disaster. He said that disarmament has stopped being a moral issue and instead has become a problem of human survival.

HAVANA NOTES VENEZUELAN RULING ON BARBADOS CRIME

FL121120 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Venezuela's Supreme Court has ruled that the four terrorists involved in the criminal bombing of a Cuban commercial aircraft over Barbados in 1976 will be tried by a civilian court. The accused are Cuban counterrevolutionaries Orlando Bosch and Luis de Posada Carriles, and Venezuelans Freddy Lugo and Hernan Ricardo. They have all been charged with proven homicide [homicidio calificado] since the crime caused the death of the 73 persons aboard the Cubana Airlines DC-8 which was blown up in flight.

Bosch, head of the terrorist group, has also been charged with possession military arms, use of a fake passport, and slander against the president of the republic. The four terrorists had been placed under the jurisdiction of a military court but the military court filed a question of jurisdictional conflict with the Supreme Court. The latter then ruled in favor of a civilian court.

HAVANA COMMENTS ON NICARAGUAN SUGAR QUOTA CUT

PA122141 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 11 May 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] U.S. imperialism has just perpetrated a new economic aggression against Nicaragua. The U.S. Government has officially announced that it will reduce by 90 percent the volumen of sugar that it buys from that Central American country.

For Nicaragua, this means a loss of about $14 million per year. Washington announced this decision in a communique released at the White House and sent to the Sandinist authorities. The document stresses that the United States will buy only 6,000 short tons of sugar in Nicaragua instead of the 58,800 tons that it had been buying until now.

Anthony Quainton, the U.S. ambassador in Managua, claims that his country is in no position to grant any financial benefit from its sugar quota to the Sandinist government. He added that the measure will become effective at the beginning of the 1984 fiscal year, in October 1983. The diplomat added that the 52,800 short tons that have been subtracted from Nicaragua's quota will be distributed among the U.S. allies in the region, more specifically, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

Quainton justified the adoption of this measure by referring to Nicaragua's alleged refusal to open general negotiations to reduce the political tensions in Central America, to the Sandinists' never-confirmed military support for the Salvadoran guerrillas, and to what he described as the Nicaraguan Government hostile rhetoric toward the United States.

Upon learning about this new imperialist aggression against Sandino's fatherland, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry issued a communique describing the U.S. decision as violating the most elemental rules of international law and of the provisions adopted by various international organizations.

Meanwhile, Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has said that the reduction of the Nicaraguan sugar quota is another weapon of aggression used by the United States, similar to the one it uses when it arms, trains, and directs the counterrevolutionary forces that are currently attacking Nicaraguan territory from their base of operations in Honduras.

He added that the U.S. decision is completely illegal because, as a member of the international community of nations, Nicaragua is entitled to have access to all markets without restriction or discrimination.

According to Ramirez, the U.S. Government is openly using political arguments to radically reduce Nicaragua's sugar export quota. He added that such an action is inadmissible from any standpoint because it violates both the letter and spirit of all the existing international treaties and agreements on trade and the economic relations among states.

The Sandinist Government has announced that it will formally denounce this new economic aggression by U.S. imperialism at the various international economic organizations in the certainty that it will obtain positive political responses for the revolution. Ramirez added that despite the loss that Washington's measure represents for Nicaragua, the Sandinist revolution's huge political force is growing stronger in the international arena.

Ramirez said that although it is true that the United States is in a position to impose by force a unilateral reduction of that quota, Nicaragua has the alternative of placing this sugar in many other markets.

Finally, he added that this new aggression by imperialism proves that the United States is not interested in finding political solutions to Central America's problems but that, on the contrary, it is trying to further provoke tensions in that strife-torn part of the world.

MALMIERCA ARRIVES IN MADAGASCAR FOR TALKS

FL130048 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has begun a visit to Madagascar for the purpose of examining the possibilities of increasing bilateral cooperation. Malmierca will remain 4 days in Tananarive, the capital of Madagascar, during which he will be received by President Didier Ratsiraka, according to reports. The Cuban foreign minister will also hold talks with other Malagasy authorities to discuss the next meeting of the joint cooperation commission.

TAMBO, MONTANE INITIATE OFFICIAL TALKS

FL121800 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] The African National Congress delegation from South Africa, presided over by Oliver Tambo, which is visiting our country, and a Cuban Communist Party delegation, presided over by jesus Montane, alternate Politburo member and member of the Central Committee Secretariat, have initiated official talks.

The talks have taken place in an atmosphere of cordiality and comradeship, which is in accordance with the relations existing between the two organizations. The two delegations expressed their concern at the climate of tension prevailing in the international field as a result of the aggressive policy of the current U.S. Administration and the support given by Ronald Reagan to repressive regimes throughout the world.

The South African delegation reported on the struggle waged by its people against the apartheid regime and for their legitimate rights.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS TO OPEN 13 JULY

FL121915 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] has announced that the fourth period of regular sessions of the National Assembly's second legislature will open at 0900 on 13 July at Havana Palace of Conventions.

During that period of regular sessions, the ANPP will review the public health bill and the highway bill and will include other subjects such as constituency reports from the provincial assemblies and from Santiago de Cuba Province, which this year will host the national ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the assault on Moncada Barracks. It will review the reports on the settlement of the state budget for 1982, the report of the Supreme People's Tribunal and of the Attorney General's Office. It will ratify decreee laws and will interpret Article 50 of the republic's Constituttion concerning the sale of books to students.

Assessing the recently-concluded assembly process at the district level, Flavio Bravo said it registered the highest percentage of attendance by the voters. He said 5,300,700 voters participated in the process, or 86.2 percent of the national total, including the holding of 18,502 assemblies. He also said that the process of municipal and provincial assemblies will begin now and that he expects quality to be a priority as it was in the assemblies at the district level.

Referring to the report which the Ministry of Public Health will present during the upcoming regular sessions of the ANPP, Flavio Bravo said:

[Begin Bravo recording] This report has been, and continues to be, meticulously prepared by all the provinces and by all the public health units, every one of which has held an assembly of all workers to discuss the problems of each unit and promised to resolve them prior to the assembly.

We would like to tell everyone that this has been an extraordinary experience of unity on the part of the deputies of the ANPP who have been participating personally in these assemblies of the public health units. Its results are already evident in many places because the workers of those units have already reported how they are fulfilling the goals they themselves set as a salute to the National Assembly. We can report that it has been a collective effort of the tens of thousands of workers who in one way or another are concerned with the health system.

This discussion on the public health will also be carried out in the municipalities and in the provinces and will culminate with the report of the minister of public health during the next period of sessions of the ANPP. [end recording]

BAHAMAS

OFFICIALS UNAWARE OF SKIRMISH WITH DOMINICANS

FL121243 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] Wire service reports of a skirmish between a Defense Force vessel and fishermen from the Dominican Republic could not be confirmed by the Royal Bahamas Defense Force late yesterday. Defense Force officials said they knew nothing about warning shots being fired at the foreign fishermen, as reported.

JAMAICA

BUSINESSMEN REACT FAVORABLY TO NEW CARICOM PACT

FL121355 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] The Jamaica Manufacturers Association, the JMA, has voiced pleasure at the resolution of the 4-month-old Caricom trade impasse but has noted with regret that the agreement reached between the affected countries has not mentioned the Caricom Multinational Clearing Facility, the CMCF.

In a release yesterday, the JMA said it was this facility which was mainly responsible for the expansion of trade within the region. It expressed the hope that at the next Caricom heads of government summit in July the CMCF would be returned and the facility expanded by $100 million.

The JMA also said that the agreement just reached pointed up some disadvantages to the Jamaica manufacturers but it did not detail these disadvantages and said it understood and accepted them as challenges. Noting that direct lending to exporters from the Exports Development Fund will now be done through commercial banks, the JMA said it viewed this as bringing into focus any real commitments the banks had toward the financing of exports. The JMA said it found the special Caricom rate of $2.25 Jamaican dollars to $1 U.S. dollar, together with quotas-free regime for Caricom goods, acceptable. It also favors the safeguards under the recent agreement which suggests the continuation of current measures of protection for Caricom producers.

On Tuesday, the Jamaica Exporters Association, the JEA, said that despite any difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the new Caricom agreement, it was committed to making it work.

Details of the agreement reached at a special meeting in Barbados over the weekend were announced by Prime Minister Seaga in Parliament on Tuesday.